



Open Call: Lead Community Artist

Community Planter Project

Issued by: Main Street Skowhegan

Date Issued: August 18, 2026

Applications Due: September 30, 2026

Community Planter Project

Help Create Public Art *With* the Community

The Main Street Skowhegan Community Planter Project is seeking a **Lead Community Artist** to guide a collaborative public art experience that celebrates the creativity, stories, and spirit of our community.

This paid opportunity is ideal for an artist who enjoys bringing people together through art. The selected artist will work with **local schools, businesses, community organizations, and residents** to develop and create artwork for **6-8 community planters** that will be installed throughout Skowhegan.

Rather than creating the artwork independently, the artist will lead a creative process that invites community participation and transforms shared ideas into vibrant public art.

About the Project

Public art has the power to tell a community's story, create a sense of place, and bring people together.

Through workshops, conversations, and creative activities, the Lead Community Artist will help residents of all ages contribute ideas that inspire the final designs. The completed

planters will reflect the people, places, and values that make Skowhegan unique while creating welcoming public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Responsibilities

The selected artist will:

- Develop and lead a community-centered creative process.
 - Engage local schools, businesses, community organizations, and residents in developing ideas for the artwork.
 - Create a cohesive artistic vision inspired by community input.
 - Design and paint 6-8 outdoor planters using durable, weather-resistant materials.
 - Guide community participants who may assist with portions of the artwork.
 - Partner with local schools to engage students in age-appropriate art activities.
 - Coordinate with Main Street Skowhegan throughout design, production, and installation.
 - Foster an inclusive and welcoming environment where community voices help shape the final artwork.
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Who We're Looking For

We're looking for an artist who believes great public art is created through collaboration.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Strong artistic ability and creative vision.
- An interest in community-engaged or participatory art.
- Experience—or enthusiasm—for working with youth, community groups, or the public.
- The ability to manage an outdoor public art project from concept through installation.
- A collaborative, flexible, and welcoming approach to working with others.

Artists at all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply.

Compensation

The selected artist will receive compensation for:

- Community engagement and facilitation
- Design development
- Artistic production
- Project coordination
- Participation throughout installation

Compensation details will be shared during the selection process.

Application Requirements

Please submit:

- A brief artist statement or biography.
- Three to five examples of previous artwork (community-based work is welcome but not required).
- A brief description of your artistic approach.
- A short statement (250–500 words) describing how you would engage community members in developing artwork that reflects Skowhegan.

Please note: Applicants are **not expected to submit design concepts** for the planters. Final artwork will be developed collaboratively with the community after the artist is selected.

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Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic quality and creativity.
- Ability to engage and collaborate with community members.
- Experience facilitating or participating in community-based art projects (or transferable experience).
- Ability to complete the project within the established timeline.
- Alignment with the project's vision of creating artwork that reflects and celebrates the Skowhegan community.

Project Timeline

Application Deadline: 11:59p.m., September 30th, 2026

Artist Selected: October 16th, 2026

Community Engagement Activities: November 2026 - January 2027

Artwork Production: February - April 2027

Installation: May 2027

Join Us

This project is about more than painting planters. It's about creating spaces that tell the story of Skowhegan through the voices, ideas, and creativity of the people who live here.

If you're excited about making art with the community and creating something that will be enjoyed for years to come, we'd love to hear from you.

Questions?

Please Contact: Danielle Scarmazzo, danielle@mainstreetskowhegan.org